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# yourswale

THE NEWSPAPER FOR SITTINGBOURNE, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT



Issue No 170

Available from Wednesday,  
January 12, 2011

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# FILL UP ON MAINLAND, URGES MP

A TORY MP has called on his constituents in Swale to boycott petrol stations on Sheppey after the cost of fuel rocketed to record levels.

Gordon Henderson said constituents should snub island garages charging above average prices and fill up on the mainland.

He said: "It's long been the case that those living on Sheppey have paid more for their petrol but with better links they no longer have to fill up on the island. It's a ten-minute drive to Sittingbourne and if the community

■ BY JILL HURST

wants to pay less for fuel then they'll have to force the issue. I recommend they do what I do and that's travel to Sittingbourne and fill up there."

The backbencher's comments came as the Government announced the cost of petrol will increase by 2p, to 127p a litre; while diesel will rise to an average of 131p a litre.

The hike has angered commuters and left businesses claiming the rise leaves them facing bankruptcy.

David Pink is a director at Dodds Group in Teynham – one of the largest

haulage companies in Swale. Four years ago the firm run a fleet of 200 lorries but fuel prices together with unregulated foreign competition has seen this drop to 60.

"This country gets the cheapest fuel in Europe, but after the Government adds duty it becomes the most expensive," Mr Pink said.

"The latest increase will see our fuel bill increase by about £1,200 per week, which isn't sustainable."

Mr Pink said the number of foreign lorry drivers with access to cheaper petrol was driving UK hauliers out of business. "They have the capacity to

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## WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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## PIP AND PERCY'S WINGS CLIPPED

Police have appealed for information after two African grey parrots, valued at £900 each, were stolen. Percy, pictured here, and Pip were both taken from their garden aviary in Murston. The brazen theft has left their disabled owner devastated.

FOR FULL STORY, TURN TO PAGE 5

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# Get in soon for free flu jab

DEPUTY Director of public health in Swale, Andrew Scott-Clark, says anyone eligible for a free flu jab should have it as soon as possible.

"We strongly urge those who are eligible to take advantage of the free seasonal flu jab to protect themselves against the three types of flu in circulation, including swine flu," said Mr Scott-Clark.

"The best way to avoid flu is to get immunised, but people can protect themselves and the people they come into contact with by practising good hand hygiene and using the catch it, bin it, kill it technique."

"This means carrying tissues, covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, disposing of the tissue after one use, and cleaning hands with soap and water or an alcohol hand gel."

"People with long-term conditions such as diabetes or heart conditions must get their vaccine. Even if you feel well, you are at increased risk of seasonal flu."

"People with cold and flu symptoms are encouraged to visit their local pharmacist for advice on suitable remedies, to avoid spreading the viruses around GP practices and hospitals."

Those eligible for the flu jab include everyone over 65 years of age, babies aged six months or un, all children and adults with serious, long-term health problems including heart disease and bronchitis and pregnant women.

For any medical advice call NHS Direct on 0845 4647 or contact your doctor's surgery.



## Director takes over at health and safety firm

SITTINGBOURNE health and safety company the Bradley Group has announced its founding partner and director Jan Mills is now the sole owner of the company, after buying out former directors Emma Cundiff and Stuart Cox.

Jan said: "I'm delighted to be taking both ownership and operational control of the Bradley Group, and I intend to invest in the growth of our consultancy and training services throughout the year to take advantage of a renewed appreciation in the market of the vital importance of health and safety to business."

"We have already strengthened our team, with the return of Abi Atekoja to our Kent Science Park offices following the fulfilment of a three-year contract with one of our clients. It is great to have him back."

"2011 looks set to be an exciting year for the Bradley Group. We will be investing in the marketing and promotion of our training and consultancy services to ensure it is a year of sustained growth."

## Academy teacher to be awarded MBE

A TEACHER from Swale has been recognised in the New Year honours list.

Paul Murray, head of community cohesion at the Isle of Sheppey Academy, received an MBE for services to education.

Now in his 36th year of teaching, Mr Murray began his career aged just 21. He joined the Sir Thomas Cheyne School – now the academy – in 1987 and taught physical education and humanities before taking up his current post.

A MURDER investigation has been launched after the death of a father of two who was attacked in a Murston street.

Adrian Milner passed away at a London hospital on Sunday afternoon. Known to his friends as Ada, he was assaulted in Church Road, on Tuesday, December 28, last year.

The 48-year-old was walking with a friend near the Co-op grocery store just before 7.53pm. Police believe there was a brief altercation involving a third man, who punched Mr Milner in the face. The blow caused him to fall to the floor and hit his head, leaving him with a serious head injury.

Medics fought to save the lorry driver, but his injuries were too severe. A post-mortem examination was due to take place yesterday; the results will be released at a later date.

Detective Inspector Lee Whitehead said: "People in Murston have shown real concern for what happened and as a result many



**VICTIM:** Adrian Milner has died in hospital 12 days after the attack

have come forward with really useful information following earlier appeals.

"Thanks to their help we are gaining a much clearer picture of what happened that evening, but we are still missing information that will give us the full picture."

"By being at the scene exactly a fortnight later, we will hopefully be able to talk to people who were out and about at that time in the evening two weeks ago and may have seen either the assault or events leading up to it."

Kent Police are appealing for anyone with information to come forward as soon as possible and officers made door-to-door inquiries yesterday in a bid to collect more information.

Anyone who was in the area on the evening of Tuesday, December 28, and may have information should contact Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate on 01622 654852 or Kent Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

## Don't let fuel thieves leave you in the cold

A SPATE of domestic fuel thefts has prompted police to warn householders to be on their guard.

Officers believe the spiralling cost of oil has triggered the trend, and have issued the following advice.

Detective Inspector Susie Harper said: "There are steps you can take to deter thieves. Fit a good quality close shackle padlock. Remote electronic oil level gauges will set off an audible alarm if the oil level in the tank suddenly drops or falls below a quarter full.

These gauges, which cost between £70 and £100, can be fitted indoors or outdoors to warn of any potential problem."

DI Harper said clever planting could also deter thieves: "They will think twice before forcing their way through a prickly hedge, and the smallest trace of blood or shred of ripped clothing could provide forensic evidence to identify the offender."

"Installing security lights and a lockable cage around the tank are also worth considering."

In Hazel Street, Stockbury, oil was stolen from the tanks of two neighbouring properties. Oil worth about £1,000 was taken from one tank and oil worth approximately £500 was taken from the second, where damage was estimated at £500.

For more news, advice and information from Kent Police, visit [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)

# Prison officers contain riot after phone found

■ BY JILL HURST

A RELIGIOUS gang started a riot at an Isle of Sheppey prison after a police bust put their alleged drug-dealing racket out of business.

A group of Muslim prisoners went on the rampage when a drug delivery to HMP Swaleside was intercepted by cops lying in wait outside the Category B jail.

Inside, 10 prison officers sustained face and head injuries after confiscating a mobile phone being used to co-ordinate a second drop-off of contraband, including heroin and cocaine.

John Hancock, spokesman for the Prison Officer's Association, said but for the courage of guards, the jail would have been overrun.

He said: "There were about 120 prisoners out on Delta wing when officers attempted to confiscate a mobile phone. A section of the inmates did not want the phone taken away and started fighting staff on the landing."

"There were only about 12 staff and they were put under incredible pressure, with stand-up fights."

"A second alarm call was made and more staff were deployed from other wings and the situation was brought under control. However, if it was not for the bravery of a few staff the incident would not have been quelled and there would have been a full-scale riot."

A prison source said about 20 Muslim prisoners had been shipped out of the prison in an attempt to break up the gang.

Kent Police and the Prison Service have



Picture: GOOGLE MAPS

**CRACKDOWN:** Swaleside Prison on the Isle of Sheppey, where the confiscation of a mobile phone sparked a riot

joined forces in a bid to tackle drug dealing at the prison. Kent Police confirmed four people were arrested last week when a large quantity of drugs and mobile phones were seized.

Prisoners commonly use mobile phones to co-ordinate drop-offs – where contraband items are thrown over the perimeter walls to inmates during exercise time.

Mr Hancock said many of the problems at HMP Swaleside were caused by a serious shortage of prison guards. "Essentially more

prison guards are needed, not staff in white shirts doing administrative jobs," he said.

"I sincerely hope this incident will cause staffing levels to be reviewed. It's clear prisoners don't respond to rehabilitation programmes, they only respond to punishment, which is what a prison is designed to do. They need to feel like it's not a place they want to go back to."

• What do you think? Call our reporter on 01303 817181, text on 07850 311216 or email yoursrale@kosmedia.co.uk

## Virtual courts 'could replace magistrates'

GORDON Henderson, MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, has written to the Justice Minister to lobby for virtual courts to be introduced to the district.

Mr Henderson, pictured, says there is little chance the Government will reverse its decision to close Sittingbourne Magistrates Court and virtual courts may be the next best thing.



The system could see defendants and witnesses giving evidence using a video link to magistrates sitting in courts in Medway or Canterbury.

The system is currently being trialled in North Kent, where 43 people have been dealt with since December, and Mr Henderson wants Swale to be included in the trial.

However, Gary Beatridge, Assistant Chief Constable for Kent Police, said the trial would not be extended to other areas until a Government review had taken place in March.

He said: "Kent Police is one of only two forces nationally which are trialling the virtual court system, alongside the Metropolitan Police service."

"We have virtual court technology installed at North Kent police station and over the Christmas period we saw people arrested for drink-driving processed through the virtual court system. In one case, it took just over one hour and 20 minutes from the point of charge to the sentencing."

## MP's fuel advice

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE  
carry 1,000 litres of fuel and can enter the country without filling up or paying tax. It's impossible to compete."

Starlight taxi firm owner Lionel Kipling agreed. He runs a fleet of 14 taxis in Faversham and says the increased cost of fuel will cost him more than £300 per week.

"We have a contract with Kent County Council, but since we signed it last year the cost of diesel has risen by more than 30p," said Mr Kipling.

"We can't increase our prices because these are set by Swale council, so this increase will have a huge impact. I'm coming up to retirement so I'll probably close the business down."

"If the price increases to £1.50 a litre, we are dead in the water."

Commuters have also been left wondering how they will find the extra cash.

Jane Hartman-Jemmett, of Hythe, works for the Bradley Group at Kent Science Park in Sittingbourne. She says the hike will cost her £50 more per month.

She said: "I'm undertaking a review of all household expenditure. I've had to reduce charitable donations and am about to move gym to cut costs."

"I think it's outrageous that diesel is significantly cheaper 23 miles away in Calais."

• What do you think? Call our reporter on 01303 817181, text on 07850 311216 or email yoursrale@kosmedia.co.uk.

## Council tax freeze backed by councillor

KENT County Council's decision to freeze the rate of council tax has been welcomed by Sittingbourne county councillor Mike Whiting.

Councillor Whiting said: "Local authorities like Kent are having to bear the brunt of the savings required to tackle the record levels of debt, and we face a reduction in funding of 22 per cent in the next two years, rising to 29 per cent over the next four years."

"Freezing the council tax was a huge challenge, and some difficult decisions had to be taken, but it was important that we didn't put additional pressures on ratepayers in what will be a difficult year for everybody."

"At a time when demands on services are rising, the council has managed to protect core services – those required by law – and many of the discretionary services, such as the freedom pass for schoolchildren and services for the elderly that are so valued by residents."

He also welcomed the proposed capital investment of £317m for the next year, and £772m over the next three years.

Cllr Whiting said: "These large sums of money will help ensure projects and vital works can go ahead in



**SUPPORT:** Cllr Mike Whiting has backed the KCC's plan to freeze the rate of council tax

our schools, including special schools, libraries, roads, youth facilities and regeneration projects like our local Sittingbourne and Milton Regis plan."

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## Women Seeking

**IF YOU'RE LOOKING** to meet or chat to someone look no further. **CHAT883** to 6525 for chat with pictures, fun and safe service.

**BEAUTIFUL** slim, black female. HIV positive, good qualities, seeks genuine, kind, white male, 30-47 to share life with. Cambridge/London/Tunbridge Wells. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356493

**LONELY** female, petite, attractive, size 8-10, blue eyes, long hair, likes historic places, holidays, meals out, seeks honest, genuine male for friendship initially. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356359

**HAPPY** fun loving, attractive, intelligent, educated, slim, curvy female, late 40's, WLTM caring, sincere man interested in theatre, reading, arts, nature and walks for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356613

**ADORABLE** black female, 37, slim, affable, enjoys music, reading, theatre, laughter, nature, seeks genuine gent, 37-49 who is caring, N/S and lives near London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338315

**CONFIDENT** young female who knows what she wants out of life, looking for open minded, outgoing guy for adult conversations/meets. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356153

**BEV** petite and trendy with a nice figure, solvent, animal friendly and looking for soul mate up for lots of fun. Age/looks unimportant. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356194

I might be 47 but am certainly not over the hill yet! Attractive and looking for a good reason to get back in shape. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356147

**SUZANNE** 35, beautiful blonde, seeks discreet mate for chats and a relaxing glass of wine anytime. ACA, status unimportant. City area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342527

**LATE** 40's female, likes most things, animals, walks, cinema, seeks male 45-59 for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349491

**29YR** old female, 5ft 5ins, size 12, long brown hair, seeks childless male, 29-40. Margate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383026

**ATTRACTIVE** black lady, 5ft 6ins, black hair, slim, kissable lips, likes walks, horse riding, go carts, seeks professional white male, 35-45, athletic, 5ft 11ins-6ft. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353897

**BLACK** female, likes meals out, theatre, seeks solvent white male, 30-47 for genuine relationship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382910

**41YR** old divorced female, likes astrology, writing, cats, seeks fun loving guy with GSOH. Rochester. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381528

**FIT** lady, 65, thinks she's 40, N/S, loves life, seeks genuine gent, 60-70 N/S for happy loving, exciting times. Gravesend. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353111

**VICKY** attractive, kind, down to earth, black British, likes travel, writing, reading, cooking, socialising, seeks generous, good man who is family orientated. Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353033

**56YR** old female, 5ft 6ins, GSOH, N/S, likes socialising, cards, dancing, racket ball, seeks male, 50-65. Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353773

**YOUNG** at heart 50's tall, slim, blue eyed blonde, honest, caring, seeks tall, strong, confident, young at heart male, 50-60. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350337

**HAPPY** fun loving, attractive, intelligent, educated, slim, curvy female, late 40's, WLTM caring, sincere man interested in theatre, reading, arts, nature and walks for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356613

**YOUNG** black female, likes meals out, theatre, seeks solvent white male 30-47 for genuine relationship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382706

**SEALED** with a kiss. 37yr old single mum, blonde hair, blue eyes, curly, likes sunshine, travel, looking for Knight in shining armour, to make me laugh and spoil me. Folkestone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355453

**PETITE** pretty black lady, 39, 36G bust, 5ft 3ins, likes reading, cinema, meals out, nature, travel, theatre, seeks tall, slim, professional white male, 35-50 who is honest, genuine, loving, funny and spiritual. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355134

**JACKIE** homely, 52, seeks genuine, homely male, 50-65 for caring, sharing and spoiling. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350005

**SINGLE** mum, 39, likes most things, seeks male with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349999

**ADORABLE** beauty, curly, caring, down to earth, trained lawyer, seeks good man for friendship, companionship, maybe more, London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351337

**COME** live with me. Medic, petite, stunning long hair, seeks very rich, tactile, generous gent. I will care for you forever. Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351333

**PENNY** slim, sporty, attractive, excellent company, enjoys the outdoors, cycling, walks, sailing, theatre, travel, seeks intelligent, like-minded gent for friendship, maybe more. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351373

**ANNA** 62, seeks guy, 59-65 with an interest in the simple things in life for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346707

**PROFESSIONAL** attractive, friendly, black British female, mid 40's, size 10-12 likes socialising, seeks sincere male of any nationality for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 34125

**62YR** old female, 5ft 4ins, blonde hair, green eyes, medium build, likes walks, keep fit, dancing, gardening, cooking, seeks male, 59-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346705

**TRACEY** 45, sex Scorpio, tattooed, petite, affectionate, likes music, comedy, cinema, seeks tall, medium build, tattooed, easygoing male, 45-48 with GSOH. Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341045

**EMMA** 31, dark hair, brown eyes, attractive, outgoing, likes bands, cinema, meals out, seeks good looking male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350413

**DENISE** young 50, likes cuddles, nights in/out, seeks male, 37-47 for LTR. Erith. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337213

**FAST CONTACTS**  
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55125  
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55125

**LADY** 62, clean shaven male to appreciate artistic, romantic, feisty, attractive, slim, curly lady of 69 who has not yet joined the wrinkles. Ashford. Tel No: 349757

**WORLD** traveller, fit, young minded female, enjoys life, seeks special interesting male, 60's for genuine relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349053

**KAREN** 34, sexy leggy brunette who knows there's more to life than just work! WLTM confident professional male for time off meets in London and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342525

**DAISY** sexy, voluptuous, leggy, blonde, seeks male, 76 plus who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348889

**DOROTHY** 70's, 5ft, fair hair, likes coast, Chinese food, seeks male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342451

**ELISÉ** 5ft 8ins, 70's, O'HAC, N/S, likes pub lunches, walks, seeks gent for company, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348425

**JO** tall, blonde, blue eyes, sexy figure, seeks male for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347421

**ATTRACTIVE** slim, easygoing, lady, 30's, likes travel, nights in, seeks genuine, solvent white male, 36-48 for no strings relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346955

**65YR** old female, 5ft 2ins, likes golf, reading, garden, holidays, seeks guy to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340495

**NATALIA** attractive, brunette, brown eyes, 40's, N/S, slim, friendly, seeks sincere, N/S, solvent male for love and relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344393

**STRAIGHT** female, 60-75 seeking male companion, no complications for fun and socialising, gay man welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334393

**LISA** 42 medium build, likes cooking, walks, music, days in/out, WLTM caring, down to earth male, 40-50.

Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332817

**JAN** 53, tall, brown hair, likes most things, seeks kind, loving, older, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341247

**5FT 2INS** female, dark hair, medium build, late 40's, GSOH, likes cinema, walks, family life, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333965

**LOVING** male, 50, younger looks, slim, toned, seeks caring, slim female for romance and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355611

**DENISE** young 50, likes cuddles, nights in/out, seeks male, 37-47 for LTR. Erith. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332664

**PETER** 57, blue eyes, full head of hair, likes sport, meals out, drinks, seeks nice, down to earth female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356067

**TALL** attractive white male, 48, considerate, easygoing, likes arts, theatre, Oriental culture, seeks female of any age with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356719

**WHITE** guy 50's, seeks black/Asian/Oriental lady for friendship, maybe more. Medway. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356899

**ALAN** young 46, attractive, green eyes, brown hair, 6ft, medium build, white, fun, loyal, N/S, seeks female for friendship/romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351553

**MARK** 44, quiet, likes walks, cinema, meals out, seeks female 35-44. Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382680

**RICHARD** 49, 6ft, slim, professional, GSOH, tactile, affectionate, likes most things, seeks slim, affectionate female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349519

**PAUL** 48, slim, 6ft, seeks caring female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348705

**GENUINE** male, 47, looks 37, likes shopping, sun bathing, travel, seeks female for platonic friendship only. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355361

**AFFECTIONATE** white male, 61, 5ft 6ins, medium build, N/S, varied interests, seeks caring, black/Oriental female with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347933

**YOUNG** 53 easygoing, affectionate, 6ft, N/S, animal lover, varied interests, GSOH, looking for a soul mate. Northfleet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355085

**SHY** affectionate male, seeks 18-30y old chubby, introverted girl for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383392

**GLADYS** sensual, loving, short hair, likes cooking, seeks Christian gent with no ties for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340025

**WANTED** dates & mates! Kim 53, straight, seeks people for socialising, drinking, holidays etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340019

**NICKI** 43, petite blonde, green eyes, seeks genuine guy for company, fun, friendship and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339115

**ATTRACTIVE** slim single mum, 44, seeks similar tall male, 40-50, caring, loving and loyal, are you? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334393

**LISA 42** medium build, likes cooking, walks, music, days in/out, WLTM caring, down to earth male, 40-50.

Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332817

**50'S** 5ft 10ins, slim, fair hair, blue eyes, widow, loving, considerate, likes travel, meals out, socialising, culture, classic cars, boating, cycling, walks, seeks female up to 58. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338657

**ANDY** fun guy, seeks attractive, assertive, open minded female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354543

**RAMSGATE** male, 5ft 5ins, young 60's, caring, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim-medium build, attractive soul mate for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383136

**SIMPLE** professional male, N/S, attractive, 5ft 7ins, medium build, vegetarian, 50, young outlook, seeks white female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354781

**MAL** male, 47, HIV positive, genuine, sincere, GSOH, seeks warm, sincere, female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357317

**DEREK** retired, lonely, seeks retired lady for company, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355717

**ANDY** funny, seeks like-minded female, 18-35. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354713

**WHITE** male, 63, blue eyes, active, N/S, seeks loving, caring, genuine female, 50-60, any nationality for 1-2-1 relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351517

**MIKE** builder, 56, big build, glasses, mousy hair, likes beaches, walks, seeks female to share life with. Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355567

**YOUNG** guy 40, likes nights out, seeks female for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355563

**JEFFERY** 52, white, 6ft 2ins, medium build, likes meals out, cinema, seeks slim, honest, female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354663

**MARK** 44, quiet, likes walks, cinema, meals out, seeks female 35-44. Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 3832680

**TRYL** mel 56 yr old male, down to earth, happy go lucky likes salsa, ice skating, cinema, meals out, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Sittingbourne. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356183

**TOY** boy 20's, seeks Mrs Claus for a fantastic Christmas full of lust and passion. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354925

**MALE** likes most things, lonely, seeks caring female to put the sparkle back into life. Canterbury. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354385

**52YR** old businessman, seeks female to share good and bad times. Herne Bay. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354891

**YOUNG** good looking, medium build male, mid 30's, seeks mature, older, female for fun and passionate evenings in this cold weather. London/Herts. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354877



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**RICHARD** 46, likes holidays, theatre, historic buildings, cinema, music, seeks female, 37-57 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355867

**WHITE** male, 52, likes cinema, weekends away, seeks sincere, genuine, black lady, 35 plus for serious relationship. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383150

**ATTRACTIVE** male, 42, OHAC, likes good things in life, seeks happy, fun loving lady. Single mum welcome. Medway. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383136

**SIMPLE** professional male, N/S, attractive, 5ft 7ins, medium build, vegetarian, 50, young outlook, seeks white female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354781

**ATTRACTIVE** blond, blue eyed male, 47, HIV positive, genuine, sincere, GSOH, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere, female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354749

**YOUNG** looking 60y old guy, 5ft 7ins, brown hair/eyes, likes lunches out, seeks slim-medium build female for friendship only. Crawley. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354713

**32YR** old male, bi-curios, likes wine, cinema, camping, seeks male, 25-35 for love ad maybe more. Could you be my Mr Right. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356183

**SIMPLE** unassertive male, mid 40's, seeks assertive male of any age for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356269

**ATTRACTIVE** non scene gay, late 20's, seeks older, solvent gent, 45 plus for mutual fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348543

**KEVIN** 34, 6ft 2ins, blond hair, medium build, toned, young boyish good looks likes nights out, sports, holidays, seeks similar male, any age for adventurous fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355984

**BI** guy 37, seeks couple/bi guy for fun times. Canterbury. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383290

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**RUFFLED FEATHERS:** African grey parrots Percy and Pip were stolen from a Murston garden by brazen thieves

# Fears for African grey 'soul mates' after aviary raid

A DISABLED Murston woman has been "devastated" by the theft of her two pet birds.

Percy and Pip, a pair of African grey parrots, were taken from Marion Horsford's garden aviary in Woodbury Drive, on December 22, just before 10pm.

The pensioner had left them for a few minutes to wrap Christmas presents, but on her return the birds had gone.

Mrs Horsford, who has severe arthritis, believes her property was targeted specifically for the birds, worth about £900 each.

"You couldn't see them from outside the garden, but you could hear them," she said. "They were virtually under the kitchen window, so it was quite a brazen theft."

The 63-year-old said she left the birds outside for a few extra minutes because they'd been cooped up inside due to bad weather.

"I left them while I went to wrap presents with my daughter, Shonagh, but when I came back the aviary mesh had been folded back and the birds were gone.

"I was horrified. At first I thought perhaps the door had come open and they had escaped, but then I saw the mesh had been pulled back enough for someone to squeeze in and out.

"I ran shouting to my daughter and we phoned the police. We're devastated."

A black metal carrier with a perch through

■ BY JILL HURST

the middle was also missing. Mrs Horsford took both parrots in eight years ago when their owners were unable to look after them. She is worried the birds will be separated and sold on.

"They are soul mates. We obtained Pip as a companion for Percy, who is a bit bonkers. He has a habit of plucking feathers from his chest and can be a bit vicious at times.

"Pip is a little asthmatic and has breathing problems from time to time. I worry how they will cope if they are parted. They need their own space and get stressed if they are confined in cages. They are both very vocal and have good vocabularies. You can't miss the sound of a parrot, so someone may notice them turning up somewhere.

"They were like members of our family and we miss them terribly. It spoilt Christmas and now I can't sleep wondering what's happened to them and where they are.

"It's a cruel crime. I just hope someone can help us to get them back."

Anyone with information on the theft or whereabouts of the birds is asked to call Sittingbourne police station on 01795 419182, or the free and confidential Crimestoppers line on 0800 555111, quoting reference number CY/20213/10.

## Five-star public loos earn civic accolade

MAYOR of Swale Cllr Stephen Worrall will host an awards ceremony this week in recognition of public toilets in the district which received top marks in a national contest.

They all earned five stars in the National Loo of the Year competition.

The five lavatories are: Rose Street, Sheerness; central car park, Faversham; central car park and Forum shopping centre, Sittingbourne; and Grove Avenue, Leysdown.

The Leysdown loos are attended by mum and son duo Carol and Bradley King.



**FLUSHED:** Bradley King at Leysdown loos

yoursrale.co.uk  
NEWS IN BRIEF

## Cancer shop gifts appeal

A SHOPPING centre has appealed for donations of unwanted Christmas gifts to its Cancer Research shop.

The store, at The Forum, Sittingbourne, is hoping the appeal will help raise essential funds for the charity.

Store manager Mandy Radovic said she would welcome any item. "We will take anything at the shop, because even though we don't sell electrical items we can pass them on to shops that do," she said.

"Anything people can spare would be gratefully received. There's a back entrance to the shop to make dropping off items by car easy.

"Charities make a substantial amount selling items in shops. Without stock to sell the research into cancer prevention and cure can be severely limited.

"So please donate unwanted Christmas gifts that may otherwise end up in the rubbish or hidden in a drawer," she said.

## Two arrests in drugs raid

TWO touring caravans were seized after a police drugs swoop on a Sittingbourne house.

A man and a teenager were remanded in custody at Sittingbourne police station after the raid in Church Road, Murston.

Twelve officers plus a sniffer dog and handler executed a warrant at the home. A 32-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of possession of drugs with intent to supply, and handling stolen goods.

A 17-year-old was also arrested on suspicion of handling stolen goods.

Along with the two caravans, drugs – believed to be heroin and crack cocaine – cash and property, including two satellite navigation systems, were seized.

## Red flares lifeboat search

SHEERNESS RNLI all-weather lifeboat was launched at 5pm on Sunday, under the command of second deputy coxswain Paul Jarvis, after reports of red flares.

The sighting was off Blacktail Spit towards Warden Point, at the eastern end of the Isle of Sheppey.

However after a thorough search of the area between the two points, nothing untoward was found and the crew returned to station at 7.45pm.

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Departures: May 5, June 14, September 2 &amp; October 2, 2011

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## Pisa's Luminara di San Ranieri, Tuscany & the Riviera of Flowers

Escorted Holiday by Rail - afternoon departure from London

Departs June 14, 2011

Come with us to the magical city of Pisa which has far more to offer than the leaning tower. In June the Luminara di San Ranieri creates a breathtaking spectacle of light with 1000s of candles lighting the River Arno, riverside buildings and bridges.

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- Champagne Check-in at St Pancras • Escorted throughout
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Departs June 20, 2011

This magical holiday combines the romance of international rail travel with dramatic scenery and warm hospitality in a rolling landscape with serene lakes, pretty villages and ancient vineyards.

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## Riviera of Flowers & Monaco

Escorted Holiday by Rail - afternoon departure from London



Departs September 15, 2011

This superb holiday, taking in the French and Italian Rivieras, starts with an escorted afternoon departure on Eurostar from London. On the Riviera enjoy Free Drinks every night, visits to Monaco, Portofino and San Remo.

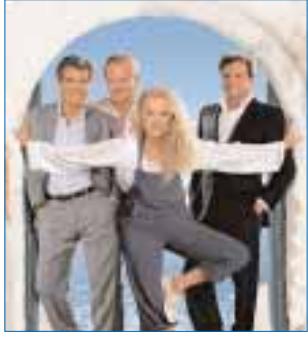
**ITINERARY/INCLUDED:**

- Champagne Check-in at St Pancras • Escorted throughout
- Afternoon departure on Eurostar to Lille • 1 night hotel B&B in Lille • TGV rail travel to Nice • 6 nights in Diano Marina, Italy, at the Piccolo Hotel with 6 breakfasts & 6 dinners with free wine & water PLUS free tea & coffee daily AND nightly Free bar - house wine/beers/ spirits 6pm to 12am • Included visits to Monaco, Portofino, Eze & San Remo • Return rail travel Nice to London • All transfers abroad

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## Mamma Mia Party

Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight - Over 50s only



Friday, February 25, 2011

Join us for a party where the name of the game is fun. We're rekindling the 70s & 80s when Abba's songs were on everyone's lips.

**PRICE INCLUDES:** FREE drinks from 3.30pm to 11pm Friday, 12noon to 11pm Saturday & Sunday. Includes house beers & spirits, house wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee • Dinners & Breakfasts • Mamma Mia movie screening • Abba Tribute Band • Variety entertainment • En-suite Ambassador room with TV, tea/coffee tray - upgrades available • Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna • Return Car Ferry

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## Mamma Mia Party

Warner Bodelwyddan Castle, North Wales - Over 50s only



Friday, March 25, 2011

Join us for a unique Mamma Mia Party - for over 50s only - in beautiful North Wales. Warner's Bodelwyddan Castle Hotel will resound to the sights and sounds of Abba. Enjoy free drinks and nightly entertainment including a screening of Mamma Mia the Movie and an Abba tribute act.

**INCLUDES:** Free Bar 6pm to 11pm daily - house beers, spirits & mixers, wine by the glass • Entertainment including a Mamma Mia the Movie screening and Abba tribute act • 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • En-suite Ambassador room with TV, tea/coffee tray - upgrades available

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# yourlocalinterview

## QUESTION & ANSWER

### CAROLINE HALLETT



**Q&A**

The Kent co-ordinator of the Food For Life Partnership speaks to **James Alexandre** about transforming school meals, reducing carbon miles and what organic produce means for the future of our food supplies

**Q** Can you tell us a little about yourself?

**A** I am regional coordinator for the Food For Life Partnership. I live in Folkestone but work throughout the South East so see a lot of the M20 and the M25. I am married with two grown-up children.

**Q** What is Food For Life and how did you get involved?

**A** The Food For Life Partnership is a network of schools and communities committed to transforming food culture. We are revolutionising school meals, reconnecting young people with farms and inspiring families and communities to cook and grow food. The partnership brings together four charities: the Soil Association, Focus On Food, Health Education Trust and Garden Organic. It empowers schools, teachers, caterers, food-producers, pupils and health professionals to create a better food culture for young people across England. This means a school-meals service serving healthy and sustainable food, practical food education and engaged pupils.

**Q** What are the advantages of growing your own?

**A** We encourage people to reconnect with food by growing organic or buying from local farmers and suppliers. Organic food is grown without the use of man-made chemicals. The same is true for organic meat. One of

the first things people notice when switching to organic is the taste, which is much better.

The most obvious advantage is safety. Pesticides and other chemicals are sprayed on inorganic food. Many fungicides and insecticides are potentially carcinogenic. With organic, the soil is not contaminated.

**Q** You are reaching out to schools to spread the message

**A** We have more than 400 schools across the South East enrolled in the programme. These are setting up gardens, getting young people cooking and growing, and visiting farms and businesses to understand more about food and where it comes from. We offer an award scheme and have gold-, silver- and bronze-award-winning schools.

**Q** Will the trend towards carbon reduction aid your cause?

**A** Absolutely. When we think about carbon footprints we tend to concentrate on how much energy we use directly, in our homes or travelling. This makes up our primary footprint, but environmental impact doesn't stop there. Food miles and packaging produce a secondary footprint.

Over-packaged items and food brought over large distances all add to our carbon contribution. Saving energy – and lowering emissions – isn't only about changing light-bulbs and switching off appliances.

**Q** Are supermarkets a help or hindrance to local produce?

**A** Large supermarkets don't supply schools with raw ingredients. We have had a positive response to our campaign from school-meals caterers who are applying for our Catering Mark and using 50 per cent locally-sourced ingredients. We encourage parents to use local suppliers and organic-veg-box schemes, but all the large supermarkets carry organic ranges now.

**Q** What is the future for food distribution and choice?

**A** The way food is distributed nationally has production, consumption and trading practices that destroy the environment, harm animals and are deeply unjust. I would like a return to local-food-hubs, with enough produced locally for all. It is madness to have only three or four large 'food factories' for staples.

**Q** Where can people find out more?

**A** Check out [www.foodforlife.org.uk](http://www.foodforlife.org.uk), or email me via [chalet@soilassociation.org.uk](mailto:chalet@soilassociation.org.uk).

**Q** What do you like to do in your spare time?

**A** I have a variety of hobbies, including arts and crafts, cooking and walking. I love entertaining and relaxing with friends.

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# yourletters

## YOUR LETTERS

### Actions do speak louder than words

I write to protest about the article in Yourscale on January 5, which says the people of Swale will need a blitz style spirit to weather the economic storm during 2011.

I'd like to know what these bureaucrats think we've been doing for the last few decades? Are they not aware this district has always suffered a disproportionate amount of hardship and the only storm we are now affected by is the one that comes out of a politician's bottom.

Swale has always been the poor relation of Kent, whether that's health, transport or employment.

Each week we read that Swale will be either the last to recover economically, that it may take up to 15 years for employment to return to pre-recession levels or even that residents may live seven years less than the rest of the country. The rail system is shockingly unreliable, there is virtually no bus service on the Isle of Sheppey and we have no proper hospitals.

So I for one am fed-up of listening to these vacuous turnips spitting

out their well rehearsed rhetoric, designed to get air-time to feed their narcissistic souls.

Please, politicians of Swale make it a resolution stop talking, just long enough to do something constructive and make some real changes to our community.

Tom Mather, Isle of Sheppey



### 'Pukka' blog on the value of Christmas

Your blog last week hit the nail on the head and, like many parents I believe our children have absolutely no idea of the value of money.

Quite rightly the article praised Jamie Oliver for his determination to teach his children the value of money by making them work.

There is one part of me that is glad youngsters do not grow up deprived. But, equally, in our

consumer society it is amazing the amount of money that is poured into non-essentials.

Most children these days have no idea of real cost or what it takes to get the money. It is no wonder most of the western world is in such a terrible state economically and there is no evidence that people reaching adulthood have fully grasped the idea that it may be better to save up rather than have it now, pay later.

Christmas is already fading in our memories but the credit card bills will begin falling on doorsteps pretty soon. There's a reminder for almost everyone.

It really seems we have learned nothing over the past few years and the prospects of learning any lesson remain poor.

So yes I agree with Jamie Oliver's example but I fear few youngsters will get similar benefits.

Charles Rowcroft, by email

### Festive season a gift for children to enjoy

What a miserable attitude displayed by your blogger last week.

Christmas has nothing to do with kids learning the value of money and everything to do with

having a great time as a family.

Yes I can see the point in making youngsters carry out chores for their pocket money but to suggest they should have less at Christmas is ridiculous.

Mrs T Leigh, by email

### A Wright Scrooge or on the money?

Gary Wright's support for Jamie Oliver and suggestion we should not spend so much on our children at Christmas may seek to make a valid point about the value of money. But some might think he's become the Ebeneezer Scrooge of the 21st Century.

Terry, comment on website

### Popular goat gifts make a difference

Oxfam Unwrapped's goats are an effective way to help improve the lives of poor people, using locally sourced, responsibly distributed livestock to make a difference in more than 60 countries.

We launched our range in 2004 and the goat gift is a popular choice. For the gift buyer, there's

obvious appeal, but for the family that receives the goat, it becomes absolutely central to their lives.

They are only be used for milk or food but as an asset to trade, giving families access to credit for food during low seasons or an income to send their children to school and then growing their wealth as it produces kids.

At Oxfam we know only too well the impact that the environment has on poor people and are very careful not to upset existing ecological balances.

We don't bring in goats from other areas, we redistribute livestock within villages, so the environmental impact is minimal.

We also assess the potential impact on natural resources by talking to people who have detailed knowledge of grazing patterns and feeding practices. Animal welfare is considered every step of the way and our programme guidelines are endorsed by the RSPCA.

We never promote animal husbandry above agriculture. But in some areas it is simply too dry to grow enough crops, so raising livestock is the only option.

Thanks to people's generosity we have raised an incredible £60 million to help thousands of people living in poverty around the world.

Rick Lay, Oxfam Unwrapped

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## BREAK TIME

### Well done for very good inspection

GOVERNMENT inspectors have commended a Sittingbourne school for the care, guidance and support it delivers to its school children.

Sittingbourne Community College received the praise following an Ofsted inspection last November, during which the school was ranked outstanding or good in 22 of the 28 categories assessed.

Inspectors judged the school's examination achievement as good after it reached the top 25 per cent of similar schools. They also highlighted the excellent working relationships between staff and students and improved in GCSE results.

To find out more about the college see [www.sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk](http://www.sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk) or telephone the school office on 01795 472449.

### Nativity celebration

YOUNGSTERS at Lorenden Preparatory School entertained visitors from neighbouring villages with a colourful production of their annual nativity play.



Ruth and John Moor, from Bayfield Farm, Painter's Forstal, attended the event. They said: "We go every year and it's always enjoyable, it's really good fun."

Hannah Rogers, deputy head of Lorenden, said: "It was great to see so many regulars but also some new faces it's all part of what we call the Lorenden community spirit."

**SEND your schools news and pictures to [yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk). You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to [www.yourkenttv.co.uk](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk)**

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**Dover College welcomes pupils at any time of the year if there is a place available.**

**From: Pre-Reception class for 3 year olds to A Levels**

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Page 22



with

**TOM BETTS**

Email thomas.betts@kosmedia.co.uk

**DAY & NIGHT****Beautiful ballet show**

**CINDERELLA** by Ballet Theatre UK is at the Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, on Saturday, January 29, at 7.30pm.

The rags-to-riches story features Prokofiev's uplifting score together with sumptuous costumes. The sets conjure up a magical fantasy world in this enchanting production.

Tickets are £18, concessions £15. To book call 01622 758611 or visit [www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk](http://www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk).

**The thrill of the circus**

FROM January 11 to 15, the big top of Moscow State Circus will arrive at the Churchill Theatre.

Performers are bringing the sensational new show *Legends* to Bromley for the first time. It is sure to thrill, astound and shock audiences of all ages with its blend of classical and contemporary circus.

Presenting a huge cast of Russia's greatest circus artistes, the Moscow State Circus is bursting with incredible human feats and death-defying acts, with state of the art special effects and performers who push the boundaries of physical ingenuity.

But tickets by calling 08448 717620, or at [www.ambassadortickets.com/bromley](http://www.ambassadortickets.com/bromley).

**Laughter with Marlon**

STAND-up comedian Marlon Davis will be making audiences laugh at the Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone on Wednesday, February 2.

The young comedian, improviser, actor and presenter bursts onto the stage like a breath of fresh air, with an impish grin, boyish enthusiasm and an effortlessly open, confident style.

He appeared in Brown-Eyed Boy on MTV and won the FHM Search For A Stand-Up Hero competition in 2009.

Tickets are £10. Over 18s only.

See [www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk](http://www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk) or call 01622 758611 to book.

**Tune in to war time**

ISLA St Clair comes to the Horsebridge centre in Whitstable on Friday, at 7.30pm.

The Eyes Front show is an exciting combination of live performance and film about the effect of music in wartime with the singer and broadcaster.

Isla St Clair, will present and perform a selection of popular songs and tell the stories behind them.

Visit [www.islastclair.com](http://www.islastclair.com) for details.

Tickets are £10 or £9 concessions from the box office on 01227 281174.

**Tony shares his politics**

VETERAN parliamentarian Tony Benn comes to the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury for one of his popular speaking dates.

An Evening with Tony Benn, on Friday, January 21, will see the lauded left winger recall many anecdotes from his distinguished career.

He'll talk about his life in politics and what he thinks about the changes in the Labour party.

Expect an evening of frank responses and entertaining political anecdotes in the long awaited sequel to his original legendary theatre tour.

For tickets (£18) call 01227 769075 or visit [www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian](http://www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian).

# Laughter is the best medicine

**STEPHEN K AMOS**

Tuesday, January 18  
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



STEPHEN K Amos is experiencing the biggest boom of his career.

The comedian has recently been starring in his own self-titled TV show on BBC Two and is seen as one of the brightest new stars in the comedy firmament.

And now he's bringing his The Best Medicine show to Canterbury.

"I'm feeling good about life right now," he said. "I was really flattered that the BBC saw fit to give me the chance to do my own show, in this day and age if you are a comic on TV you don't always get that platform to show all the different things you can do, so I saw it as a real great opportunity to show a bit more of myself."

The show went out on BBC Two on Friday nights at 10pm, but the series ended in the run up to Christmas.

Stephen said of what he wanted to achieve with it: "I kind of hark back to the old style of Dave Allen with the feel of the show. It's quite gentle and I embrace the variety nature of shows like that as I didn't think that kind of thing was happening as much on TV anymore, so to help to try and revive it is something that it's great to be involved with."

"I didn't want to do another bog-standard stand-up show. With that in mind we threw in some sketches, some bits with the audience and then some musical acts that you might not see on things like Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow. I just wanted to throw some more in there to mix it up a bit."

Stephen turned to comedy 15 years ago but never thought he'd make a career out of it.

He said: "I was studying law at the time but decided I'd try my hand at stand-up and simply haven't stopped. It was never part of my plan to live this life. I wanted to be a lawyer and see where that took me."

"I'd never tried stand-up before, or any comedy and never been to a comedy club, so to me it was like a totally new medium."

"I just took the attitude from the start that it was all about having fun on stage and not being too fearful of it."

"That was probably helped initially by the fact that at the early shows a lot of my friends turned up. They found me funny anyway, but they obviously couldn't be there every time I had a show and so they started to stop coming. But the laughs continued and I decided to keep it going."

"People always say to me it must be the most petrifying thing to do, but the worst that can happen is that people don't laugh. It might be uncomfortable for a while but you're not going to die. There's usually a lot of goodwill in audiences too. Most people go to comedy nights to laugh, they want to laugh."

Stephen promises that his touring show is very different to his TV work.

"This is live, unedited and in the moment. I try and keep it as fresh as possible. If something that is new material to me feels right I will do it and try it out. I try not to stick too rigidly to any script."

Stephen begins his tour in mid-January and says that he believes comedy is having a real renaissance.

"It's absolutely going through a boom time. That's got to be a good thing. I think we've all had enough of celebrity chefs. There was a time when you couldn't turn on the TV without seeing one, but that seems to have died off a little."

"People want to have a laugh when they get home. There are other art forms and stand-up comedy really is one worth putting on TV."

• For tickets (£13 each) to see Stephen in Canterbury, Book at [www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian](http://www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian) or call 01227 769075.



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# **TODAY'S FORECAST**



## **AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY**

<b>Amsterdam</b>	3°C	<b>Madrid</b>	8°C
<b>Athens</b>	14°C	<b>New York</b>	1°C
<b>Barcelona</b>	14°C	<b>Paris</b>	7°C
<b>Beijing</b>	-2°C	<b>Rome</b>	15°C
<b>Bombay</b>	31°C	<b>Sydney</b>	25°C
<b>Cape Town</b>	23°C	<b>Tenerife</b>	21°C
<b>Cardiff</b>	8°C	<b>Tokyo</b>	5°C
<b>Gibraltar</b>	15°C	<b>Vancouver</b>	4°C
<b>Hong Kong</b>	14°C	<b>Warsaw</b>	2°C
<b>Las Palmas</b>	21°C	<b>Wellington</b>	18°C

# KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

<b>Chatham</b>	Saturday	8:03am 4.7m	Sunday	9:18am 4.8m
<b>Dover</b>	Saturday	6:33am 5.3m	Sunday	7:45am 5.4m
<b>Dungeness</b>	Saturday	6:47am 6.1m	Sunday	7:53am 6.2m
<b>Ramsgate</b>	Saturday	7:03am 4.0m	Sunday	8:15am 4.1m
<b>Sheerness</b>	Saturday	7:51am 4.6m	Sunday	9:06am 4.7m
<b>Whitstable</b>	Saturday	7:45am 4.4m	Sunday	9:08am 4.5m



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## MOTORS NEWS



### Zero per cent on the new C4 from the off

CITROËN'S stylish new C4 went on sale this week, priced from £15,595 and with zero per cent finance deals offered straight away.

Available in five-door format only for now, the new car's compact external dimensions contrast with generous internal volumes and a class-leading 408-litre boot.

The French marque has also gone upmarket with the cabin and there are luxury options such as Denon hi-fi and massaging front seats.

Powertrain options include four low-emission diesel and three petrol engines – the latter developed with BMW.



### New junior Audi wins top award for safety

AUDI'S new A1 supermini has earned the ultimate safety accolade – a maximum five-star Euro NCAP rating for frontal, rear or side collision, as well as for child safety and pedestrian protection.

It makes the A1 one of the safest small cars around and delivers further ammunition for its battle with fellow premium contender, the BMW Mini, and Fiat's retro star 500.

The most junior Audi is priced from £13,145 and the engine options are turbocharged 1.2 and 1.4-litre petrol units, plus a 1.6-litre diesel.



### Jazzed up Honda deals

HONDA'S British-built Jazz and Civic line-ups have gained from New Year customer savings and offers.

The Jazz (from £9,950) is now available with £1,000 off all models, while the Civic line-up now starts at £12,995 and with savings of up to £2,750.

Other incentives include three years' complimentary servicing on most Civics, tempting new finance deals and the return of Honda's popular 50/50 plan for the Jazz – customers pay half the cost of the car on collection and the balance a year later.



**IMPRESSIVE:** Peugeot says its RCZ coupé is not aimed at giving the likes of the Audi TT a run for their money, but a stunning drive, comfortable interior and host of extras give it a chance

# Peugeot's audacious bid to lionize classy coupé

IF PROOF were needed of Peugeot's new ambition to climb the world's car rankings, look no further than the stunning RCZ coupé.

The Audi TT is the most obvious target for the audacious Peugeot, except that the TT (from £26,475) is more expensive and more minimally equipped than the RCZ (from £20,450).

The upmarket RCZ GT HDi 163 (£25,550) model tested was laden with standard 'extras' such as powered and heated front seats, leather upholstery, parking aids and stunning alloys, and turned heads wherever it was seen.

You even get folding rear seats, allowing the rear of the cabin to be crammed far more than you would expect with that curvaceous roof.

And it steers and handles as crisply as it looks, aided by a tidy six-speed manual change. Sports car purists might moan that it's not rear-wheel drive, but that would have hiked the cost.

And it feels light yet well planted, particularly with the test car's smooth 169bhp 2.0-litre diesel engine.

There is no penalty to pay for the car's abili-

## ROAD TEST PEUGEOT RCZ

■ BY STEVE LOADER

### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

ty to tame a fast and winding route either; the ride quality is stunning for such a capable sports car and I could imagine driving a huge distance in the RCZ without feeling jaded at the other end.

The cabin is not a bad place to be either. Peugeot has made big strides here lately, opening up a lead over sister brand Citroën and arch-rival Renault.

There is also decent storage space and while the RCZ can never pretend to be more than a 2+2, it's a decent one.

Admittedly, grown-ups will struggle for headroom beneath the distinctive double-bubble rear roof; everyone said this would never be ported over from the original RCZ concept, but it has proved to be a practical way of using air flow to keep the rear screen clear of rain and crud.

The RCZ is also environmentally-friendly for a 'press on' motor; our RCZ diesel pushes out just 139g/km of CO<sub>2</sub> and falls into road tax band-E (£110/year) and should average more than 50mpg – pretty impressive for a fun car.

Will there be a roadster to attack the TT on both fronts? Peugeot has said 'Non!', but the demand is out there.



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**Renault Clio  
£5000**

Vehicle price £5000, Deposit £500, amount to finance £4500, First payment of £189.00, followed by 58 payments of £104.09 per month and a Final payment of £253.09 Total amount payable £6479.31 Apr 16.4%



**Renault Megane  
£3995**

Vehicle Price £3995, Deposit of £250 amount to be financed is £3745, First Payment of £189 followed by 46 payments of £103.12 per month and a final payment of £252.12, Total amount payable £5184.64 Apr 18.2%



**Renault Clio  
£5495**

Vehicle Price £5495, Deposit £500, amount to finance £4995, First payment of £189.00, followed by 58 payments of £115.41 per month and a Final payment of £264.41, Total amount payable £7147.19, Apr 16.1%



**Vauxhall Corsa  
£4495**

Vehicle Price £4495, Deposit £250, amount to finance £4245, First Instalments of £189, followed by 58 payments of £98.25 per month and a Final Payment of £247.25, Total amount payable £6134.75, Apr 16.6%



**VW Polo  
£7000**

Vehicle price £7000. Deposit £500, amount to finance £6500, First Instalments of £189 followed by 58 payments £149.85 per month with a final payment of £298.85. Total Amount Payable £9179.15 Apr 15.3%



**Renault Megane  
£5495**

Vehicle price £5495, deposit £500, amount to finance £4995, one payment of £189 followed by 58 payments of £115.41 and a final payment of £264.41. Total amount payable £7147.19 Apr 16.1%



**Ford Focus  
£6495**

Vehicle Price £6495, Deposit of £500, Amount to Finance £5995, first payment of £189 followed by 58 payments of £138.29 per month and a final payment of £287.29, Total amount payable £8497.11 Apr 15.5%



**Citroen C2  
£4495**

Vehicle Price £4495, deposit £250, amount to finance £4245, first payment of £189 followed by 58 payments of £98.25 per month and a final payment of £247.25, total amount payable £6134.75 Apr 16.6%



**Fiat Punto  
£4995**

Vehicle price £4495 deposit of £500, amount to finance £4495, first payment of £189 followed by 58 payments of £103.97 per month and a final payment of £252.97. Total amount payable £6472.23 Apr 16.4 %



**Ford KA  
£4250**

Vehicle price £4250, deposit of £250, amount to finance is £4000, First payment of £189 followed by 58 payments of £92.65 per month and a final payment of £241.65. Total amount payable £5804.35 Apr 16.9%

All finance examples include and option to purchase fee of £149 which is included in the final payment. All finance is subject to status terms and conditions apply.

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05 55	Volvo V50 2.4 SE Semi-Auto Est, I owner, 59,000 mls, FDSH, AC, Cruise, ABS, PAS, RCL, immob, htd seats, SIPS, EV, ESR, CD, leather, alloys, Met Blue
07 57	Seat Alhambra 2.0 Tdi Reference Est, 7 seats, 6sp, I owner, 92,000 mile, FSH, ABS, PAS, RCL, immob, EV, CD, Met Blue
08 58	Ford Focus 1.8 TD Style 5dr Est, I owner, FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, r/c locking, immob, e/w, CD, in met black
08 08	Ford Focus 1.8 TDCi Style Est, I owner, 64,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, EV, CD, Met Grey
07 07	Ford Focus 1.8 TDCi LX Est, I owner, 73,000 miles, FSH, AC, RCL, Immob, E/Htd Mirrors, CD in Tango
07 07	Vauxhall Astra 1.7 CDTi Club Est, I Owner, FSH, AC, Cruise, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, EM, CD, Met Silver
01 51	Volkswagen Golf 2.0 SE Auto Est, 2 Owners, 83,000 miles, FSH, Climate, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, EM, Htd Seats, CD, Met Green
02 02	Alfa Romeo 156 1.6 T-Spark Turismo Est, 3 Owners, 63,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, CD, Leather, Alloys, Met Silver

<b>SALOONS, SPORTS &amp; PRESTIGE</b>	
05 05	Vauxhall Astra 2.0 Bertone Turbo Convertible, 28,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, Cruise, RCL, Immob, EV, Htd Seats, Alloys, Peacock Blue
02 52	Mercedes C230K 1.8 Coupe 2 dr, 94k, fsh, a/c, cruise, PAS, r/c locking, immob, panoramic s/roof, e/w, CD, htd seats, leather, alloys, in silver
01 Y	Subaru Impreza 2.0 WRX Turbo 4dr, 2 Owners, 75,000 miles, SH, AC, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, EV, CD, Alloys, Silver
02 52	Peugeot 206 1.6 Coupe Convertible, 59,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, ER, EW, CD, Leather, Alloys, Met Blue

## HATCHBACKS

08 08	NEW SHAPE Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Edge 5dr, 6sp, I owner, 75,000 miles FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, cruise, r/c locking, immob, e/w, CD, in met black
07 57	Seat Leon 1.9 TDI Reference 5 dr, I owner, 73k, FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, r/c locking, immob, e/w, CD, in met black
05 55	Volkswagen Golf 1.4 5 dr, 2 owners, 58,000k, FDSH, ABS, PAS, a/c, r/c locking, immob, e/w, CD, in blue
07 57	Vauxhall Astra 1.3 Life CDTi 5dr, 6sp, I Owner, 48,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, EV, CD, Met Black
07 07	Ford Mondeo 2.0 LX TDCi 5dr, I Owner, 68,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, Cruise, RCL, Immob, EV, CD, Met Black
03 03	Mini Cooper 1.6 S 3dr, 6sp, FDSH, AC, ABS, PAS, CBC, RCL, Immob, EV, EM, CD, I/2 Leather, Alloys, Met Grey
07 57	Mazda 6 TS 2.0D 143 BHP, I owner, 96,000 miles, AC, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, EV, EM, CD, Alloys, Met Silver
07 57	Renault Clio 1.2 S Dynamique 16v Turbo 3dr, I owner, 62k, FSH, ABS, PAS, A/C, E/W, CD, Alloys, in Met Blue
07 57	Ford KA 1.3 Style 3dr, I Owner, 37,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, CL, Immob, EV, Radio/CD, Drivers Airbag, Cloth Trim, White
04 54	Vauxhall Vectra 1.8 Life 5dr, 96,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, CBC, RCL, Immob, EV, EM, CD, Met Silver
04 54	Renault Clio 1.2 16V Extreme 3 3DR, I owner, 51,000 mls, FDSH, ABS, PAS, r/c locking, immob, sunroof, CD, e/w, in silver

## COMMERCIALS

08 08	Mercedes Sprinter 311 2.2 CDi LWB Dropside, 6 speed, I owner, 117k miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, EW, CD, in White
07 57	Mercedes Sprinter 331 2.4 CDi MWB, 6 speed, I owner, FSH, ABS, PAS, e/w, CD, side loading dr, in white
08 57	Mitsubishi L200 2.5 DI-D WORK, D/C, I owner, 80,000L, FSH, ABS, PAS, c/locking, immob, CD, r/d lock, in white
07 07	Mitsubishi L200 2.5 DI-D 4 Life Double Cab, I owner, 63,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, CL, Immob, EV, CD, Side steps, In white
07 57	Volkswagen Transporter 1.9 TDI T28 SWB 102 BHP, I owner, 97,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, RCL, immob, Side loading door, CD, Ply Lined, White
07 57	Mercedes Vito 109 2.2 CDi Xtra Long Van, 6sp, I owner, 111,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, r/c locking, immob, CD, ply lined, in white
06 56	Mercedes Vito 109 2.2 CDi Compact SWB, 6sp, 2 Owners, 64,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, ASR, RCL, Immob, EV, CD, Twin Side Loading Drs, White
07 07	Ford Transit 100 2.4 TDCi T350 LWB, I owner, 113k, FSH, ABS, PAS, R/C/L, Immob, CD, Met Silver
07 57	Mercedes Vito 2.2 CDi 109 LWB, 3 seater, 6sp, I Owner, 117,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, CD, Ply Lined, Twin side loading drs, White
07 07	Vauxhall Astra 1.9 CDTi Sportive Van, 6sp, I owner, 79k, FSH, A/C, ABS, PAS, R/C/L, Immob, E/W, Alloys, Met Silver
07 57	Ford Transit 85 2.2D T280 SWB, 3 seater, I Owner, 104,000 miles, ABS, PAS, ESP, RCL, Immob, CD, Ply Lined, Side loading dr, White
07 07	Ford Transit 100 2.4D T350 LWB, Semi High Roof, 3 seater, I owner, 117,000 miles, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, CD, Ply lined, CD, Side loading dr, White
07 57	Ford Transit 85 2.2 TDCi T280 SWB, Semi High Roof, 3 seater, I owner, 103,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, R/C/L, Immobiliser, Alloys, in White
07 07	PEUGEOT EXPERT 1.9D 815 70, 3 SEATER, I owner, 60,000 miles, FS, C/Locking, Immob, CD, Ply Lined, in White
08 57	Volkswagen Caddy 2.0 SDI 69PS, I Owner, 106,000 miles, ABS, PAS, ASR, RCL, Immob, CD, Ply Lined, White
07 07	Vauxhall Astravan 1.7 CDTi Sportive, 6sp, 110,000 miles, FSH, A/C, ABS, PAS, R/C/L, E/W, Immobiliser, Alloys, CD in White
07 07	Vauxhall Astra 1.7 CDTi Club Van, 6sp, I Owner, 82,000 miles, FSH, AC, EW, PAS, Roof rack, CD, RC Locking, Immob, In White
07 07	Vauxhall Astra 1.3 CDTi Club, I Owner, 70,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, EW, CD, White
07 07	Vauxhall Astravan 1.3 CDTi Club, 6sp, I Owner, 61,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, EV, CD, White
07 56	Vauxhall Astravan 1.3 CDTi Club, 6sp, I Owner, 61,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, CD, Ply Lined, White

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**07 57 Ford Focus 1.8 TDCi Style 5dr**  
I Owner, 47,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, Computer, CD, Met Blue



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**05 55 Volkswagen Golf 1.4 S 5dr**  
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**02 02 Alfa Romeo 1.6 T.spark Turismo Sportwagon**  
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## PROPERTY NEWS

### Minister says we've seen end of the housing boom

BRITAIN'S property boom could be over for good, according to the housing minister in the Coalition Government.

Grant Shapps said homeowners should no longer rely on their houses to fund their retirement.

He said ministers were hoping to engineer an era of "house price stability" in which property values would gradually be eroded by rising earnings.

He suggested that in a 'rational' market, house prices might rise by two per cent while earnings rose by four per cent, making property more affordable over time.

The Government is trying to encourage councils and developers to build more homes to suppress the market and make it easier for first-time buyers to get on to the housing ladder.

Mr Shapps, a Conservative, said a fall in the real value of houses would ease the "horrendous" situation faced by millions of young people.

He said property should "primarily be thought of as a place to be your home" rather than as an investment.

"The main thing everyone requires for their subsistence is a roof over their head and when that basic human need becomes too expensive for average citizens to afford, something is out of kilter," he continued. "I think the answer is house-price stability."

### Give careful thought to your buy-to-let choice

INVESTORS may wish to consider the location and nature of a property more carefully when taking out a buy-to-let policy, say experts.

Analysts say buy-to-let is one of the top 20 ways to profit from the current dip in the housing market, but urges people to be cautious about where and what they are buying.

According to a survey most city centres have an abundance of flats, so the best returns come from letting three and four-bedroom houses to families.

According to the findings some letting agents have experienced rises of 20 per cent in 2010, but they do not expect a great deal of capital appreciation until at least 2012.

Buy-to-let landlords may also wish to consider empty properties as potential investment.

David Ireland – chief executive of charity Empty Homes – said it is easier and cheaper to convert such dwellings than to construct new ones.



# Slight price rise is not yet a sign of market recovery

■ BY NICK AMES

THE latest house price index from the Nationwide Building Society has revealed a 0.4 per cent rise for the month of December compared with November.

The latest rise means house prices are now just 0.4 per cent higher than this time last year, with the average UK home costing £162,763.

Nationwide's chief economist Martin Gahbauer, said: "Despite December's increase, house prices have fallen in four out of the last six months and it would be premature to suggest the recent downward trend has been broken on the basis of one month's figures."

House prices came under pressure this year as a high level of instructions outstripped buyer demand.

The prediction for house prices in 2011 is for a slight fall as demand for housing is expected to stay weak as a result of the uncertainty surrounding the economy and the Government's massive spending cuts.

Some experts are predicting falls of around five per cent in 2011, while many have suggested they could fall by as much as 10 per cent.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders is predicting that the housing market will remain subdued in 2011, due to uncertainty surrounding the economy and the ongoing mortgage rationing by lenders – but is optimistic that stamp duty legislation could assist those wanting to buy for the first time.

But it says lenders must be more flexible when deciding whether to assist them onto the housing ladder.

Over recent times, demand has been weak as many buyers have adopted a "wait and see" approach as uncertainty continues to surround the economy and the Government's spending cuts make prospective buyers cautious. However, the CML is hopeful that the £250,000 stamp duty exemption for first-time buyers may provide a modest boost to sales next year – particularly as the December 2011 deadline looms.

Despite this, the fact remains that first-time buyers continue to struggle to get onto the



**FLUCTUATIONS:** Despite a slight rise in house prices last month most predictions are for house prices to fall

property ladder as lenders are still demanding large deposits.

With regard to house prices, the CML expects them to fall modestly or stay flat next year as the availability of mortgages continues to "remain limited". The body does not expect lending levels experienced during the housing boom to return for many years.

Mortgage approvals are currently hovering around the 47,000 a month mark – this is less

than half the level reached at the height of the housing boom in 2007.

In the meantime, the CML predicts a modest rise in mortgage arrears and repossessions.

The spokesman explained this would be to reflect "the continuing pressure on household finances, the persistence of cases of long-term arrears and the government's decision to cut help for borrowers by cutting payments of support for mortgage interest."

## Now's the time for first timers to get a mortgage

MORTGAGE affordability in the UK for those looking to take their first steps onto the property ladder is at its most favourable for 12 years, according to the latest annual Halifax First Time Buyer Review.

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and 40 per cent of local authorities are affordable for first time buyers, a sevenfold increase on 2007, the report shows.

The proportion of disposable earnings devoted to mortgage payments by a potential new first time buyer stood at 27 per cent in the autumn of 2010, the lowest since December

1998 and almost half of the peak level of 50 per cent in September 2007.

This significant improvement in affordability over the past three years has been mainly driven by a combination of lower house prices and declining mortgage rates, the lender said.

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## Senior & General Appointments 20-22

## Public Notices

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Application forms and further details are available from [www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk). Alternatively, please e-mail [job.applications@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:job.applications@midkent.ac.uk). For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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Notice is given that because of works to install a new district water meter and associated pipe work, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Newhouse Lane, Sheldwich, on or after 1 February 2011 for up to 8 weekdays or until the works have been completed. The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with A251 Faversham Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with A251 Faversham Road and Owens Court Road.

The alternative route is via A251 Faversham Road, Ashford Road, A2 Canterbury Road, Selling Road and Featherbed Lane.

**STATION ROW LEVEL CROSSING, TEYNHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is given that because of a level crossing inspection and track maintenance, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Station Row Level Crossing, Teynham, on or after 31 January 2011 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

Station Row will be closed at the Level Crossing. There is no alternative route. Every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so.

The planned closure times are from midnight on 31 January 2010 until 5.00 am on 2 February 2011.

**STONE LEVEL CROSSING, BUCKLAND (SWALE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is given that because of level crossing maintenance, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stone Level Crossing, Buckland (Swale), on or after 4 February 2011 for up to 1 night or until the works have been completed.

Lower Road, Buckland will be closed at Stone Level Crossing. There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Buckland Farm Road and Elverton Lane.

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It is planned these works will be carried out from 0.05 am until 6.00 am, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

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**TANNERS STREET, FAVERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is given that because of carriageway repairs, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Tanners Street, Faversham, on or after 2 February 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 53. There will be no access for northbound through traffic from the junction with Napleton Road to the junction with West Street.

The alternative route is via South Road, Lower Road, Beech Close, Stonebridge Way and West Street.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Tanners Street will be suspended between the junctions with Napleton Road and West Street to allow access up to the point of closure.

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# Abbott's blast at 'sloppy' Brickies for slump in form

## FOOTBALL

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

### Sittingbourne 0



### Eastbourne Town 1



James 22

SITTINGBOURNE completed a poor start to 2011 with their second defeat in a week to leave manager Gary Abbott with a despairing sense of déjà vu.

Good starts in each of the last two seasons has seen the Brickies falter at the turn of the year and miss out on a play-off place that had looked so secure in the first-half of the campaign.

That trend looks to be continuing this season, with Sittingbourne occupying a place in Ryman Division One South's top five for long periods, but three straight defeats at home – two in the space of five days last week – looks to have temporarily derailed their early season momentum.

They have also dropped out of the play-offs and with the likes of Bognor Regis and Leatherhead 11 points ahead of Sittingbourne and with games in hand, it looks as though



**DEJA VU:** Gary Abbott says his team's dip in form is the same as in the last two seasons

five place is the only available spot to fight for, among those in the chasing pack.

"We've had such a good season when you bear in mind the squad we have and how young they are, to just throw that away feels like déjà vu from the last two years," Abbott said. "This was a massive couple of games for us and I feel we just have to put more effort in.

### Sittingbourne starting XI



Subs used: Hooper (Aldazzan, 51), Nuttall (Horlock, 75)

"It's definitely only fifth place up for grabs now; we lose to Chipstead and now Eastbourne, which means there are about seven teams going for that one place. I think we're still good enough to get there, but we've got to turn it round quickly."

Sittingbourne went down to Ryan James' 22nd-minute free-kick on Saturday and despite having enough chances on the day, the home side lacked that bit of spark you would usually associate with a Gary Abbott side.

The manager wasn't happy with skipper Tom Bradbrook or defender Joe Horlock and words were exchanged in the changing room, and Abbott is clear on what needs to improve.

"We don't take responsibility," he said. "It's silly, sloppy things coming into our game and it's really costing us."

The Brickies had a chance to get back to winning ways when they travelled to Walton Casuals on Monday night. For details visit [www.yoursrale.co.uk](http://www.yoursrale.co.uk). On Saturday Sittingbourne travel to Dulwich Hamlet.

## FOOTBALL



Picture: GOR KUPCO

**EQUALISER:** Dale Skelton scored Faversham's first goal

### Late strike puts an end to Town's nine game unbeaten run

#### Walton & Hersham 3 Faversham Town 2

FAVERSHAM Town manager Justin Luchford is hoping to make a couple of additions to his squad this week as they look to bounce back from Saturday's defeat at Walton & Hersham.

Town conceded a 91st-minute goal to lose 3-2 in Surrey, which saw the end of a nine-game unbeaten run in Ryman Division One South.

The visitors went a goal down when ex-Tonbridge and Margate forward Jean-Michael Sigere scored a debatable penalty on 21 minutes, but Town levelled 12 minutes later when Dale Skelton nodded home after Dave Bathgate's spot-kick had been saved.

The home side regained the lead five minutes before the break through Shaun Elliott, but Faversham hauled themselves back in the game when Damian Abel used his pace to break clear of the Walton defence, and despite his first effort being well saved, he was on hand to tap the ball home from the rebound.

#### Disaster

The Lilywhites then took control of the game and looked comfortable for a point until disaster struck in time added on. An innocuous centre from the left bobbed up nastily in front of goalkeeper Rob French before bouncing off his shoulder and into the path of Graeme Purdy who dispatched into an empty net.

It was tough on Town, whose manager felt it was one of their best performances of the season.

Luchford said: "It was the hardest defeat to take of the season because of the way we played. I've got nothing but praise for the lads because I did not expect us to play that well considering the break we had and then being quite rusty against Whitstable."

The Town boss was hoping to have signed a player in time for last night's visit of Merstham. He will also be speaking to another potential new signing at the end of the week after putting in a seven-day request.



Picture: DAVE HICKS

## Bourne back on title trail despite struggle at Lords

### RUGBY

#### Lordswood 18 Sittingbourne 20

SITTINGBOURNE are back on the promotion trail in Kent 1 after a weekend which saw them move to within one point of league leaders Ashford.

While Bourne were edging to a narrow victory at Lordswood, their closest rivals, Sheppen, were doing them a huge favour by running up a 20-0 home win over Ashford at Stupple Field.

However, Sittingbourne skipper Rob McNamara admitted his side had been fortunate to start the year on a winning note after delivering a low-key display against a Lordswood team who led the table earlier this season.

"It was a pretty poor performance," he said. "They've lost quite a few players and we went there expecting to win by a lot, but we didn't really stick to the game plan."

"We kept them in the game and although we stepped it up in the second-half, fair play to them because they stuck together and played well."

"We want to go up but we won't if we keep playing like that. We need to start improving, we've got Christmas out of our system and hopefully this Saturday will be different. The best thing is that we still got the win and Sheppen did us a favour by beating Ashford."

Dick Humphreys scored Bourne's first try of the afternoon, touching down under the posts and when McNamara secured posses-

sion at the scrum, Paul Prett carried the ball over to extend their lead.

However, Lordswood battled back and Bourne were eventually grateful to fly-half Mark Penny for slotting the winning penalty in the second-half.

On Saturday, Sittingbourne host lowly Old Gravesendians while Sheppen travel to Whitstable.

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Gills boss Andy Hessianhaler reveals the latest team news from Priestfield

### KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Metropolitan Police	19	15	3	1	+38	48
2 Whitehawk	23	13	6	4	+31	45
3 Leatherhead	21	13	4	4	+33	43
4 Bognor Regis Town	19	13	4	2	+25	43
5 Burgess Hill Town	21	10	5	6	+7	35
6 Walton Casuals	22	10	5	7	+4	35
<b>7 Sittingbourne</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>+6</b>	<b>32</b>
8 Walton & Hersham	21	9	3	9	+2	30
9 Merstham	21	7	9	5	0	30
10 Chipstead	21	8	6	7	-1	30
11 Worthing	20	7	7	6	+12	28
<b>12 Faversham Town</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>
13 Ramsgate	24	7	6	11	-5	27
14 Godalming Town	19	8	2	9	-17	26
15 Eastbourne Town	22	6	7	9	-9	25
16 Dulwich Hamlet	19	7	3	9	0	24
17 Fleet Town	18	7	3	8	-7	24
18 Chatham Town	21	6	4	11	-13	22
19 Whyteleafe	20	5	3	12	-16	18
20 Corinthian-Casuals	22	5	3	14	-19	18
21 Whitstable Town	22	3	7	12	-16	16
22 Horsham YMCA	22	3	2	17	-55	11

### FIXTURES (Saturday):

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH: Faversham Town v Whitehawk; Dulwich Hamlet v Sittingbourne  
KENT SENIOR TROPHY: Norton Sports v Hythe Town

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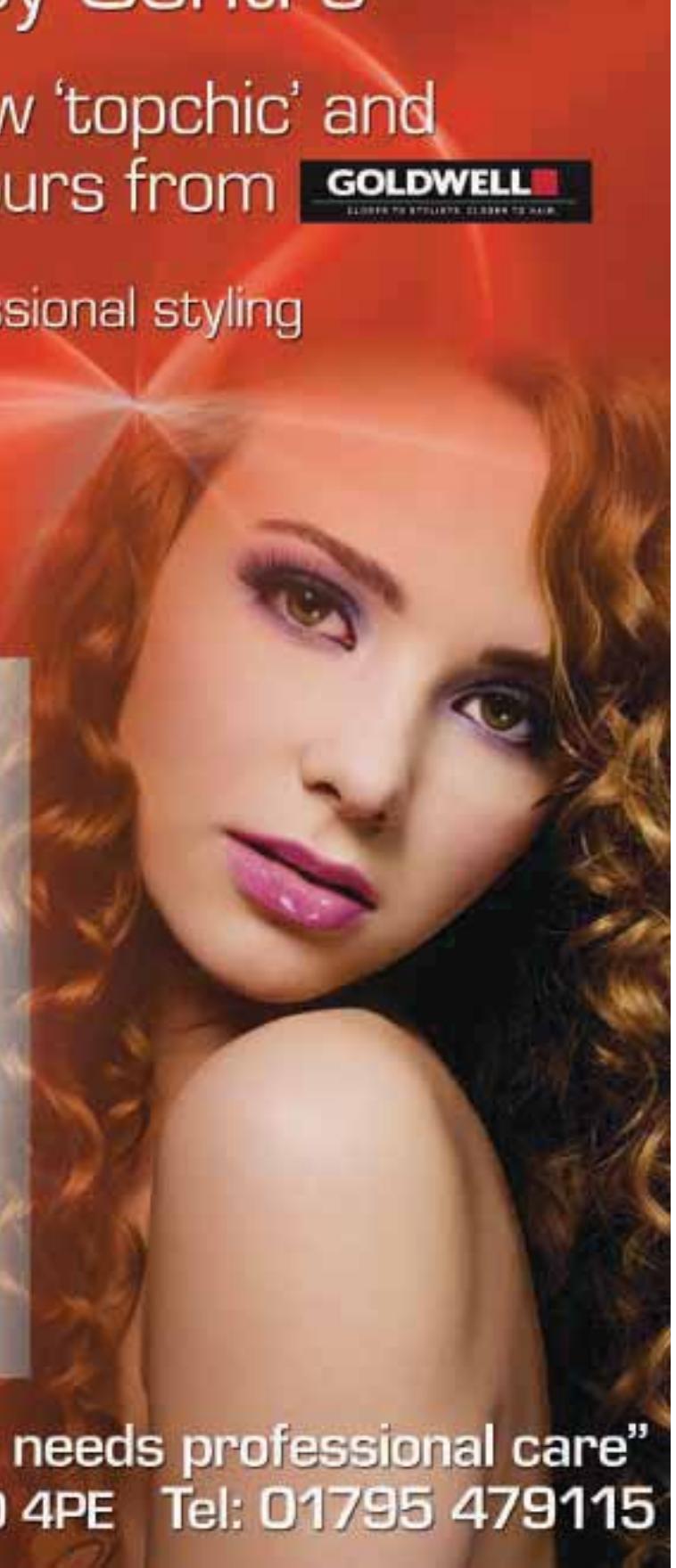
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